

Georgia in the Revolutionary Era

During the royal period, Georgia had gone from being a young and weak colony to becoming more like the other British colonies in America. Yet while the 1760s and 1770s were a time of growth for this youngest of the original colonies, it was also a time of growing discontent and disagreement with the mother country. Like the other colonies, Georgia opposed the new British colonial policies that emerged after the French and Indian War. Eventually these disagreements led to conflict and finally to a movement for independence. Georgia was more cautious than its fellow colonies in participating in outright rebellion. But the colony eventually did join with the others in declaring and fighting for independence.

The American Revolution was bloody in Georgia, with neighbor fighting neighbor. In the early years, the revolutionaries controlled the state after the royal government collapsed and fled. In December 1778, the British recaptured Georgia, at least most of the coast. In spite of their efforts, the British were never able to control the backcountry. As a result, Georgia was divided between royal and revolutionary governments. Both the British and the revolutionaries had victories and defeats in the war in Georgia. Ultimately, however, the war for independence was won, and Georgia and the other twelve former colonies formed a new country.

The first experiment in government was a **confederation**, a loose organization of the states with a very weak central government and powerful state governments. Problems with finances, diplomacy, and other issues of governing led to a movement to change that government. Meeting in Philadelphia in 1787, Georgia and eleven other states hammered out a new framework of government under the United States Constitution. Because of problems it had experienced in the 1780s, especially with the Creek Indians, Georgia was a strong supporter of this change. Georgia approved the Constitution and became the fourth state to join the United States of America. These three chapters are the story of this transition from royal colony to state.

John Trumbell's famous painting, "Declaration of Independence," hangs in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. The painting shows the presentation of the declaration to the Second Continental Congress by the drafting committee. The five-man committee, standing in front of the desk, consisted of, from left to right, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Robert R. Livingston of New York, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, and Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania. Congress adopted the declaration on July 4, 1776.





Focus on Reading Skills

Finding the Main Idea

Defining the Skill

You should always read to find main ideas. The *main idea*, which is often the first sentence in a paragraph, is usually a single sentence that describes specific ideas or details. The main idea is followed by *supporting details* that explain, describe, prove, or clarify. Supporting details may tell who, what, where, when, or why. Supporting details may also provide examples, facts, or statistics.

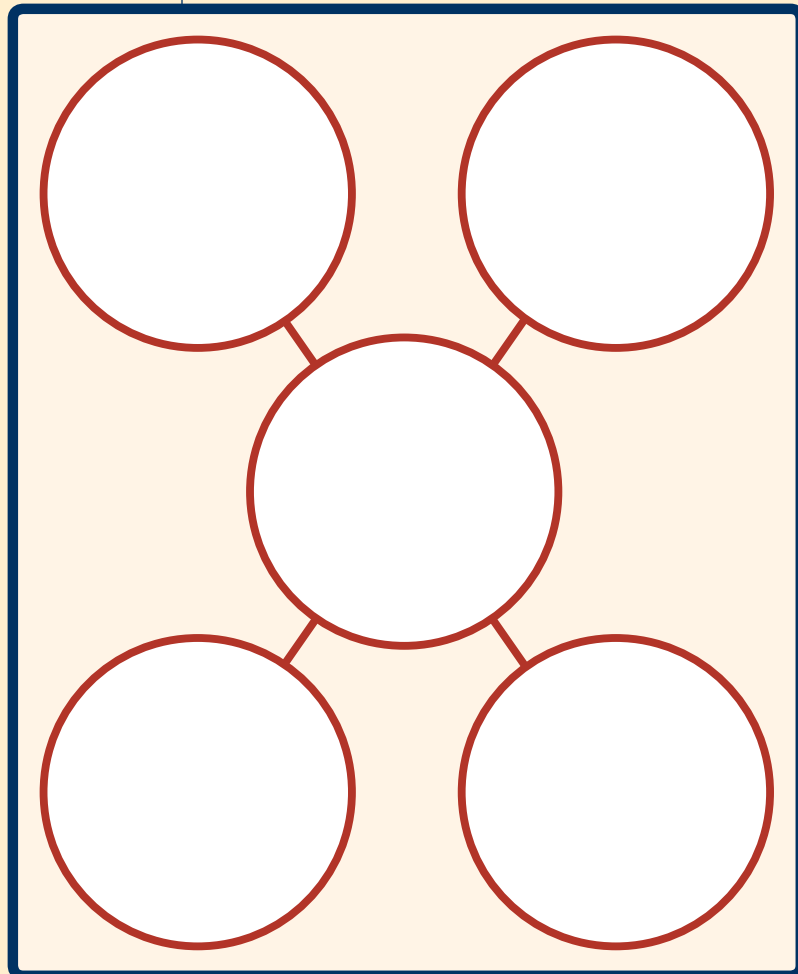
The main idea is easy to locate if it is the first or last sentence in a paragraph. It is more difficult to identify the main idea, however, when it is located in the middle of the paragraph or is implied instead of actually being stated.

Practicing the Skill

Copy the graphic organizer on a separate sheet of paper. Then, read the following paragraph and identify the main idea and the supporting details. On your graphic organizer, write the main idea in the center circle and the supporting ideas on the circles that surround the center one.

When the war ended, many Native Americans were afraid that the colonists would begin to move into their lands. This was particularly true for those living west of the Appalachian Mountains who had been allies of the French. North

of the Ohio River, Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa said the French did not own the land and had no right to give it to the British. Several tribes joined the Ottawa and rebelled against the British in May 1763, attacking British forts. That was followed by raids in which settlers were killed. The British soldiers did bring the rebellion under control, but Pontiac did not surrender until 1766.



Signs of the Times

POPULATION

About 23,000 in 1770; by 1780, the population had grown to about 56,100.

FADS

"Bosom bottles" were worn for the first time in 1765. These small ribbon-decorated glasses became the first live "corsages."

SCIENCE/INVENTIONS

In 1760, Benjamin Franklin invented bifocal eyeglasses. In 1784, Franklin first proposed the idea of daylight savings time.

MUSIC

Revolutionary War favorites included "Johnny Had Gone for a Soldier," "The Foggy, Foggy Dew," and "All the Pretty Little Horses." British soldiers sang "The Yankeys Return from Camp" to make fun of the colonists. Today, it is known as "Yankee Doodle."

LITERATURE

Books that were popular for adults to read to their children included *Robinson Crusoe*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and *Aesop's Fables*. Phillis Wheatley, a gifted black poet from Boston, had a book of her poems published in 1773.

This famous image of the Revolutionary War was painted in 1875 by Archibald M. Willard. Originally titled "Yankee Doodle," it has come to be known as "Spirit of '76."

Chapter 11

The Road to Revolution

Chapter Preview

TERMS

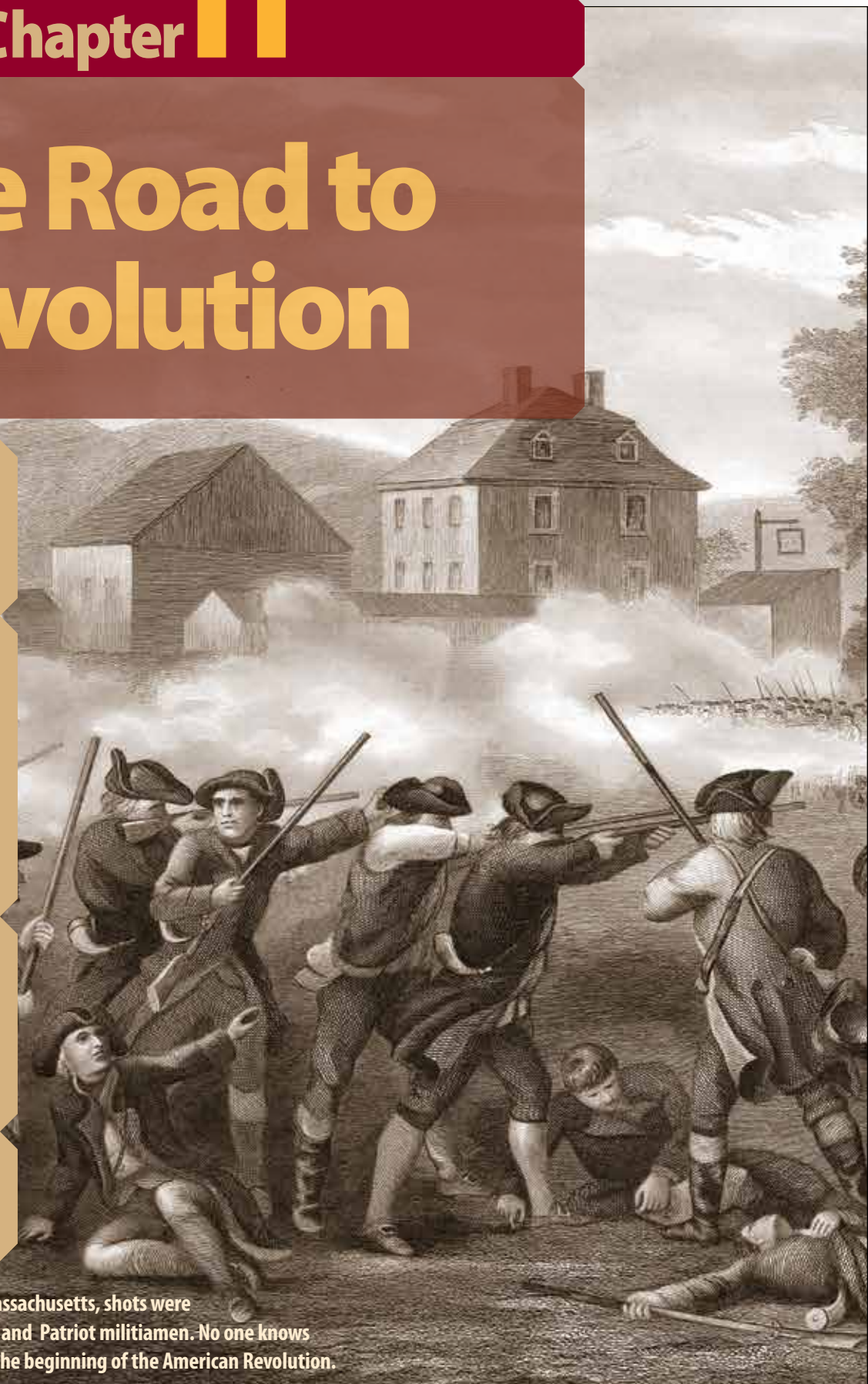
confederation, smuggling, Proclamation of 1763, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, repeal, boycott, Intolerable Acts, provincial congress, Council of Safety, Loyalist, Patriot, Declaration of Independence

PEOPLE

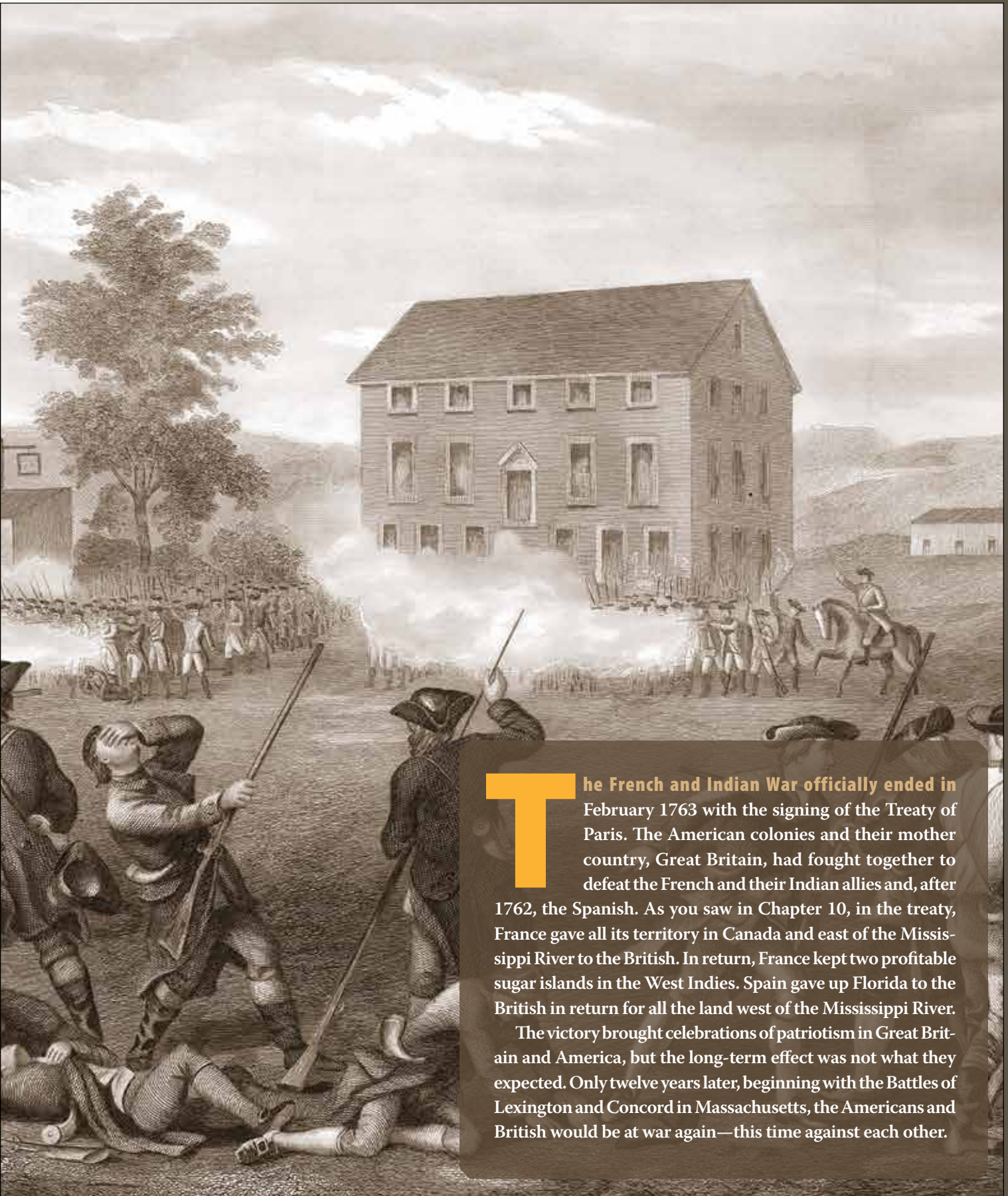
Noble Wimberly Jones, Archibald Bulloch, John Houstoun, Lyman Hall, Thomas Paine, Button Gwinnett, John J. Zubly

PLACES

Tondee's Tavern



On April 19, 1775, at Lexington, Massachusetts, shots were exchanged between British troops and Patriot militiamen. No one knows who fired first, but the result was the beginning of the American Revolution.



The French and Indian War officially ended in February 1763 with the signing of the Treaty of Paris. The American colonies and their mother country, Great Britain, had fought together to defeat the French and their Indian allies and, after 1762, the Spanish. As you saw in Chapter 10, in the treaty, France gave all its territory in Canada and east of the Mississippi River to the British. In return, France kept two profitable sugar islands in the West Indies. Spain gave up Florida to the British in return for all the land west of the Mississippi River. The victory brought celebrations of patriotism in Great Britain and America, but the long-term effect was not what they expected. Only twelve years later, beginning with the Battles of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts, the Americans and British would be at war again—this time against each other.

Section 1

British Policies at the War's End



French and Indian War

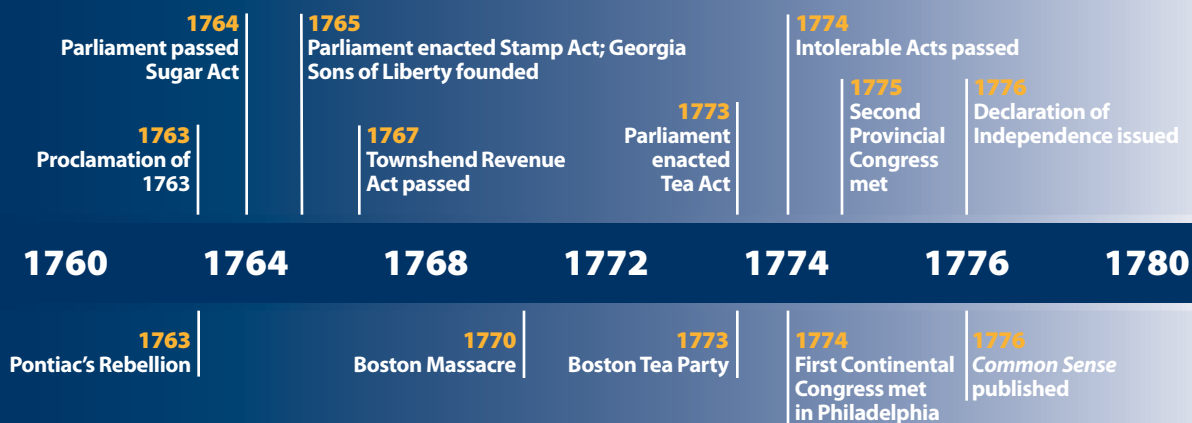
As you read, look for

- the effects of the French and Indian War,
- the Proclamation of 1763,
- various laws passed by Parliament, and the colonists' reaction to them,
- terms: **smuggling, Proclamation of 1763, Sugar Act, Stamp Act, repeal, boycott.**

a-z
GLOSSARY

The French and Indian War changed the relationship between Great Britain and its North American colonies in ways that neither side could foresee. As Great Britain tried to govern its larger territory, keep the Indians under control, and pay its debts, leaders developed what they called a “new colonial policy.” Much of the new policy was not really new, but involved better enforcement of existing laws that had been ignored. The colonists thought

Figure 21 Timeline: 1760 to 1780



that after the French and Indian War their relationship with Great Britain would go back to the way it had been before the war. They quickly became upset by the new British acts and began to respond with resistance. That caused Great Britain to pass other measures, which again met with defiance. Action after action made Great Britain and the colonies angrier with each other. By 1776, the colonies had determined to become their own country.

Effects of the French and Indian War

The war against the French had been expensive for Great Britain, and the country already had a serious debt. It was the fourth major war Great Britain had fought since the 1690s. British citizens at home had grown weary of increasingly higher taxes. The British government needed money. It thought that, since the war had started as a way to help the colonies, the Americans should be willing to help pay for it and their continued defense. So, the first effect of the war was that the British government began a policy of taxing the colonies in order to raise money. While the colonies had paid some trade taxes, taxes to pay for their colonial expenses had been determined by their own assemblies, not Parliament. This new policy caused major problems.

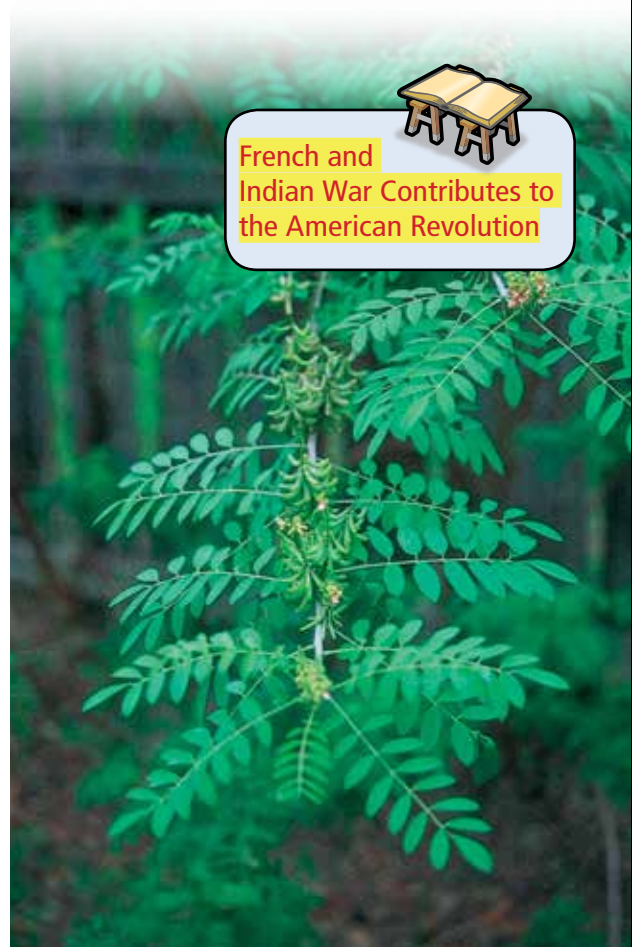
Second, with the war over, Great Britain began to enforce a series of old trade laws, called the Navigation Acts, which they had loosely enforced or ignored for many decades. One of these acts required that certain goods Great Britain needed but did not produce be placed on a list of items that could only be sold to Great Britain or to other British colonies. Georgia's rice, indigo, furs, and naval stores were all on that list. Georgia could thus not sell these products directly to France for example. Another act said that only British or British colonial ships could carry goods to colonial ports. In other words, any goods from other countries had to be brought to the colonies in British ships. That gave British merchants control of trade with the colonies. Another act required that British products could only be bought from the mother country, and that the colonies could not make anything, such as hats, that would compete with British manufacturers. These acts made sure that colonies benefited the mother country, as mercantilism required. To avoid these acts, the colonists had turned to **smuggling** (secretly importing or exporting goods).

A third effect of the French and Indian War was the continued presence of British soldiers in the colonies. After the war, the British government did not recall all the soldiers brought over to fight. Although the government said the soldiers were there for the colonists' protection, many thought they were there to keep an eye on the colonists. Many Americans came to resent them, especially in the northern colonies where most of the troops were stationed. When the British began to

Something Extra!

The British began fighting in 1754 with a national debt of about £75 million (pounds). By the end of the war, that had risen to about £133 million (pounds).

Below: Indigo, the dye made from this plant, was one of the Georgia exports affected by the enforcement of the Navigation Acts. The act limited export of certain goods, including rice and furs, only to Britain.



French and Indian War Contributes to the American Revolution



The Royal Proclamation, October 7, 1763

require the colonists to house and provide supplies for the troops, resentment grew. Georgia, being on the frontier, was different. Because the Indians still lived right on its borders, Georgia wanted the protection of British soldiers, although few actually came to Georgia. However, even Georgians did not agree with having to provide housing and supplies.

Another effect of the war was the removal of the French from Canada and the land west of the Appalachian Mountains and the removal of the Spanish from Florida. One of the major advantages to being part of the British empire had been the protection offered by the mother country against these other European powers. Now that protection was not needed as much; Georgia no longer had to fear Spanish schemes from East and West Florida or problems with the French along the Gulf Coast. The Indians in those areas no longer had Spanish or French allies.

These large changes, along with smaller ones, caused the relationship between Great Britain and its North American colonies to become increasingly tense. The events over the next twelve years show how these effects of the French and Indian War put the two sides on the road to revolution. The colonies became stronger and were able to imagine themselves being on their own.

The Proclamation of 1763

When the war ended, many Native Americans were afraid that the colonists would begin to move into their lands. This was particularly true for the Native Americans living west of the Appalachian Mountains who had been allies of the French.

North of the Ohio River, Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa said the French did not own the land and had no right to give it to the British. Several tribes joined the Ottawa and rebelled against the British in May 1763, attacking British forts. That was followed by raids in which settlers were killed. The British soldiers did bring the rebellion under control, but Pontiac did not surrender until 1766.

When Pontiac's Rebellion began, the British government was already working on an Indian policy. In October 1763, the British government, hoping to bring order to the area and prevent further problems with the Native Americans, issued the **Proclamation of 1763**. This document created a line along the crest of the Appalachian Mountains and forbade any settlement west of the line. Those already settled in the west were to leave.



Map 20 The Proclamation of 1763

Map Skill: Which colonies did not border the Proclamation Line?



Above: In 1763, Ottawa chief Pontiac led a rebellion of tribes opposed to further white settlement in their territory. The British responded with the Proclamation of 1763, banning settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains.

The year 1763 was also the year that Georgia Governor James Wright negotiated the Treaty of Augusta. In Chapter 10, you learned that this treaty opened up land for settlement between the Ogeechee and Savannah rivers as far north as Little River. This new territory was not west of the Proclamation Line, so Georgians were not negatively affected. In fact, Georgia indirectly benefited because some settlers from other colonies, especially Virginia and the Carolinas, came to Georgia to get land in the treaty area rather than move west across the Appalachian Mountains.

The other British colonies, however, were upset. After all, one of the main reasons for the French and Indian War had been to gain control of the Ohio River territory. Now, they believed that their own government was protecting the very Indians who had been their enemies. Some colonists also wondered if the British wanted to keep them east of the Appalachians, where it might be easier to control them.

The Sugar and Stamp Acts

With the colonists already unhappy about the Proclamation Line, the British government began to enforce its trade policies and to enact new taxes. The **Sugar Act** of 1764 was the first of many new laws that angered the colonists. This law revised the tax on a major item of trade between the mainland colonies and the island colonies in the West Indies—molasses. The act also called for more customs officials (people who oversaw the goods coming into ports and made sure taxes were paid). For the British government to tax an import was not new. Parliament had long taxed goods to regulate trade within the empire. But enforcing the tax laws was new and would hurt merchants, especially the smugglers who had never bothered to

Something Extra!

In the 1700s, the word *stamp* had a different meaning. At that time, it referred to using a “stamp” to imprint, or emboss, a raised design on paper.

A Summary of the 1765 Stamp Act





Something Extra!

The problem of not having a colonial agent was finally decided in 1768 when both the Commons House of Assembly and the Governor's Council agreed to hire the Pennsylvania agent—Benjamin Franklin—to also be the agent for Georgia.



Stamp Act Repealed



Sons of Liberty Meet in Savannah - Today in Georgia History

pay a tax before. Instead, many had bribed customs officers to look the other way. The loudest protest came from the New England colonies, especially Massachusetts, where many made their living by smuggling.

While Georgians were somewhat concerned about the 1764 act, the first law that really made the Georgia colonists upset was the **Stamp Act** of 1765. This law required that stamps be placed on all printed materials and documents. Examples of items to be stamped included bills of sale of property, leases, newspapers, shipping clearances that allowed ships to leave port, licenses for businesses, diplomas, calendars, and even playing cards. The stamps were to be sold by stamp agents or masters.

In Georgia and the other colonies, the stamp tax brought up a larger question: Did the British government have the right to tax a colonial citizen directly? Up to this time, taxes on goods had been paid by the merchant; those were indirect or “external” taxes. The stamp tax would be paid by every citizen who used any kind of paper or had to have any kind of legal document. The colonists argued that this kind of direct or “internal” tax on citizens was a violation of their rights because they did not get to elect the people who passed it. The colonies had no representation in the British Parliament. The British government argued that the colonists had “virtual representation” because Parliament represented all British citizens wherever they lived. The colonists said they believed in “actual representation,” where those men eligible to vote got to elect their representatives. They thought the Stamp Act was “taxation without representation.”

In some colonies, people protested in the streets over the Stamp Act. In Massachusetts, a mob tore up the house of Lieutenant Governor Thomas Hutchinson. The first reaction of Georgians, however, was calmer. The Commons House of Assembly asked William Knox, the Georgia agent in London (a person similar to a lobbyist today), to ask Parliament to **repeal**, or take back, the Stamp Act. When Knox said Parliament had a right to tax the colonies in this way, the Commons House fired him and tried to hire the South Carolina agent to also represent them. The Governor's Council would not agree to that, so Georgia had no agent for a couple of years. This division between the council (the upper house) and the Commons House (the lower house) was a sign of more conflict to come.

Organized Protests

In the summer of 1765, the Massachusetts assembly sent a letter to the assemblies of the other colonies. It was an invitation to send representatives to a meeting of all the colonies to decide what to do in response to the Stamp Act. Governor Wright did not want Georgia to participate, so he did not call the Commons House into session. As a result, Georgia did not have any official delegates at the Stamp Act Congress held in New York City. The fact that the governor did not even allow the Commons House to meet to talk about sending anyone made some Georgians very angry.

In the fall of 1765, a group of Georgians opposed to the Stamp Act formed an organization called the Sons of Liberty. It was modeled on Sons of Liberty groups in other colonies. On October 25, 1765, a group gathered in front of

Tondee's Tavern in Savannah. They had made an effigy (likeness) of a stamp agent, which they paraded through the streets, pretended to hang, and then burned while a crowd cheered them on. The governor became alarmed at such a threatening display. Another demonstration took place in November.

On the day the Stamp Act went into effect, nothing happened in Georgia because there were no stamps and no agent to sell them. The Sons of Liberty had already decided to ask the stamp master to resign as soon as he arrived. When the stamps finally arrived in December, Governor Wright ordered them to Fort Halifax on the edge of Savannah, where they were put under guard. Still, there was no agent to sell them. Ships could not leave without the stamped papers; harvested rice already loaded could not be shipped out for sale. On January 3, 1766, the stamp agent, George Angus, finally arrived and began selling the stamps. The port re-opened as ship captains paid their stamp tax and set sail.

No other colony sold the hated stamps. The rice planters and merchants were glad to see their cargo transported, but some Georgians were unhappy that they had given in. South Carolina was particularly unhappy with Georgia for using the stamps and loudly said so. In February, a group of 250 men from the backcountry marched on Savannah in protest. They were met by 100 Rangers with guns. (The Rangers were a full-time, paid provincial military force.)

No further stamps were sold in Georgia while it waited with the other colonies to see what actions the British government would take. Fortunately, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766. The colonists believed they had won, even though Parliament passed legislation saying it had the right to tax the colonists. Although the Stamp Act protests in Georgia had been mild compared to those in other colonies, Georgia was changed by the controversy. Governor Wright, while relieved that the crisis had passed, could not forget the threats of violence that he had witnessed.

More Taxes

In October 1767, the *Georgia Gazette* had news of a new set of taxes. The Townshend Revenue Act placed taxes on goods coming into the colonies—tea, glass, paint, paper, and other items. Parliament thought the colonists would not object since these were external (indirect) rather than internal taxes.

But protests came quickly in many colonies, and Georgians read and heard about them. Once again, Massachusetts led the way with another letter proposing that the colonies unite to oppose the act. When the Commons House of Assembly tried to discuss the Massachusetts letter, the governor dissolved the legislature and sent the delegates home. Since the Stamp Act crisis, the Commons House and the governor were increasingly at odds.

Several months later, organized opposition to the act had resulted in two large meetings in Savannah. At the second one, resolutions against the act



Above: Opposition to the Stamp Act was widespread throughout the colonies. In Boston, the act was burned in the street. The Stamp Act Congress, held in New York in October, 1765, drew delegates from nine colonies. It was the first example of the colonies acting in unison to oppose the British government.

Something Extra!

The *Georgia Gazette* stopped publishing for a year until the Stamp Act was repealed.

The Art of Politics



Violent opposition in the colonies to the Stamp Act led Parliament to repeal it in March, 1766. This British cartoon, entitled "The Repeal or the Funeral Procession of Miss Ame-Stamp," shows the supporters of the act carrying its remains in a small coffin, while goods bound for America pile up on the dock as a result of the colonial boycott.

were passed. Meanwhile, South Carolinians had begun a **boycott**, which meant they refused to buy most British-made goods. Once again, South Carolinians had taken a harder stand against the British law and saw their Georgia neighbors as being too soft. In fact, at a meeting, South Carolinians voted *not* to trade with Georgia!

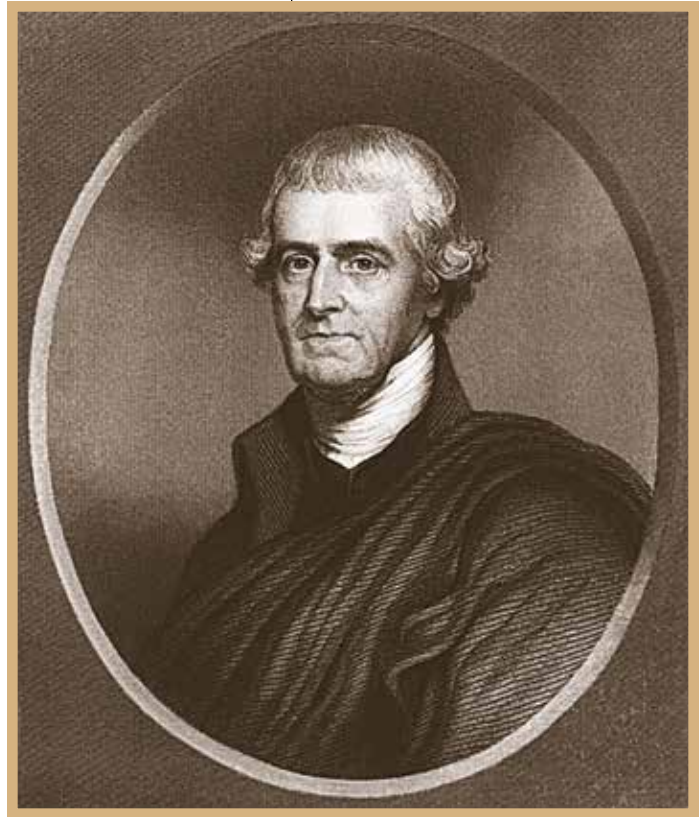
In 1770, Parliament voted to repeal all the Townshend taxes, except the tax on tea. The boycott had hurt British merchants and trade. That was the second time the colonists believed they had gotten their way. The boycotts of British goods ended quickly, although many colonists still refused to drink British tea. Some colonists continued to drink tea, but tea that was smuggled in and therefore not taxed.

The Speaker Controversy

After the repeal of the Townshend Act, tensions calmed some, although there were incidents in many colonies that kept things stirred up. Unfortunately for Georgians, the relationship between Governor Wright and the Commons House of Assembly was a problem. Wright was trying to do his job and support the British government, but he was also trying to explain to his superiors in Great Britain how these policies affected the colonists.

One of the issues that became a problem was the man the Commons House chose to be its speaker. (The speaker represented the Commons House to the governor and the council.) In April 1771, the Commons House elected Noble Wimberly Jones to the position. He was the son of Noble Jones, the doctor and surveyor of the colony. Governor Wright would not approve the selection of the younger Jones because he had been a leader of the Sons of Liberty. After taking this action, Wright left Georgia and traveled to England for over a year. Merchant James Habersham, a member of the council, became the acting governor. When the Commons House again elected Jones, Habersham followed Wright's direction and vetoed his selection—twice—in the spring of 1772.

When Wright returned in 1773, he was Sir James Wright, having been given a noble title by the king. The colonists welcomed him back and were genuinely happy about his honor. While he was in Great Britain, Wright had urged the government to change some of the policies the colonists did not like. But Wright also believed that it was his duty to enforce the government's policy, even if he did not agree with it. The colony might have remained quiet if Parliament had not passed another law that angered citizens in Georgia and the other colonies.



Above: Noble Wimberly Jones was elected as speaker of the Commons House, but as he had been a leader of the Sons of Liberty during the Stamp Act protests, Governor Wright refused to approve his selection.

NGE

Noble Jones - New Georgia Encyclopedia

Reviewing the Section

1. Define: smuggling, repeal, boycott.
2. What is the difference between internal and external taxes? Why was that difference important?
3. Why did Georgians and the other colonists resist the new taxes imposed by Parliament?
4. Do you think the Proclamation Line was necessary? Why or why not?

Georgia Portraits

NGE

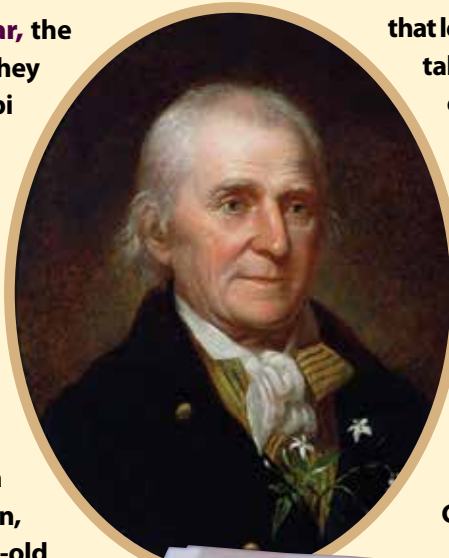
William Bartram
in Georgia - New Georgia
Encyclopedia

William Bartram's Trail

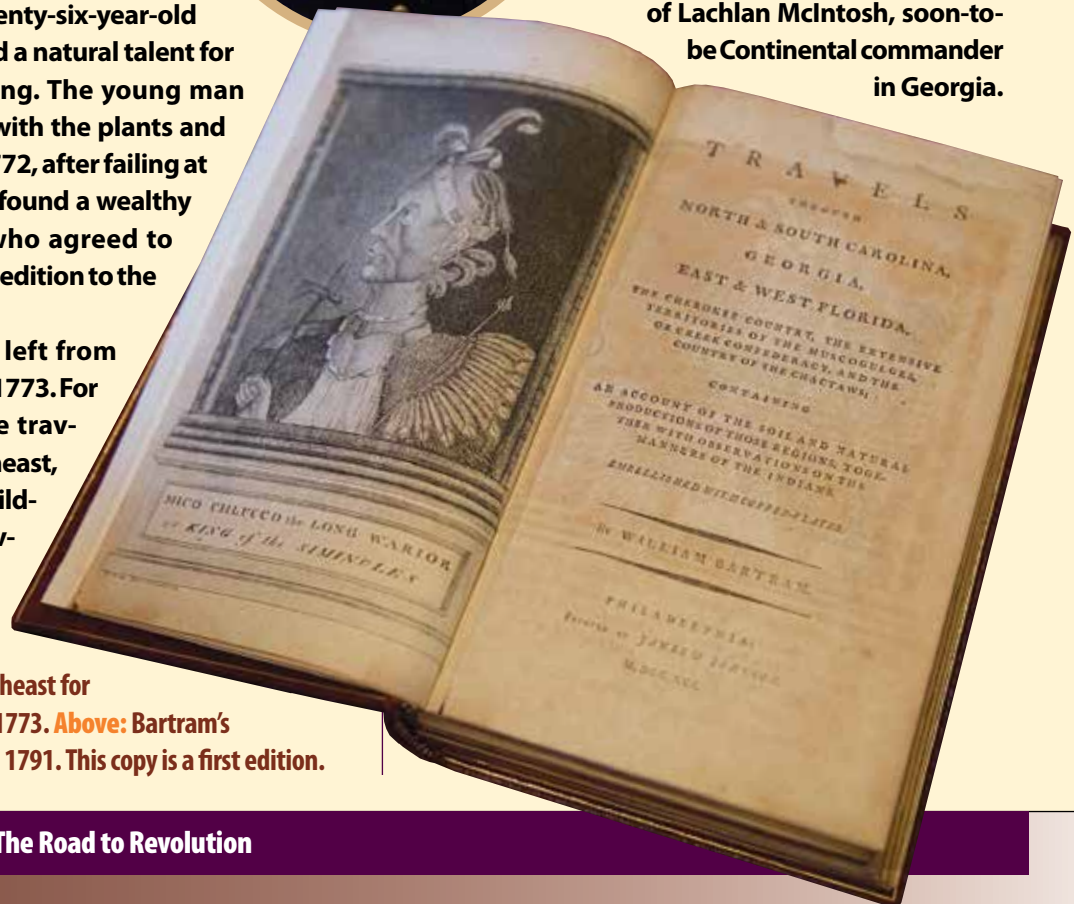
After the French and Indian War, the French had lost all the territory they had claimed east of the Mississippi River. Philadelphia Quaker and botanist (a scientist who studies plants) John Bartram suggested to one of his influential friends that he could travel through the new lands in the Southeast and record the natural world he found. His friend wrote back, the "King has named thee his Botanist . . . to range over Georgia and the Floridas." On his expedition, Bartram took his twenty-six-year-old son William, who had a natural talent for drawing and painting. The young man became fascinated with the plants and animals he saw. In 1772, after failing at other work, William found a wealthy British supporter who agreed to sponsor another expedition to the Southeast.

William Bartram left from Charleston in March 1773. For over three years, he traveled across the Southeast, often alone in the wilderness. As he was traveling, the activities

Top: William Bartram traveled across the Southeast for three years, starting in 1773. **Above:** Bartram's *Travels* was published in 1791. This copy is a first edition.



that led to the American Revolution were taking place. He was involved in several significant events in Georgia and became friends with important Georgians. Bartram was in Augusta for the historic 1773 meeting with the Indians that resulted in the land cession of that year. That led to an invitation to accompany the surveying party that set out to map the boundaries of the newly acquired land. He also went to the Georgia coast, where he was a guest of Lachlan McIntosh, soon-to-be Continental commander in Georgia.





Above: William Bartram's Philadelphia home is a National Historic Landmark. **Right:** Bartram discovered the Franklin Tree on the Altamaha River. **Below:** This Bartram Trail marker is on the Savannah River in Augusta.

Bartram toured Florida, at one point joining Indian traders in their trips to Indian villages. Back in Georgia, he went to Cherokee mountain towns and then into Tennessee and Alabama. By the time he left Georgia for the last time in late fall 1776, he had traveled in North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Along the way, he had kept a detailed journal and some drawings of the plant and animal life he encountered. By the time his expedition ended, the colonies had declared their independence and the war was on.

Bartram published his *Travels* in 1791, and it quickly became popular, especially in Europe. Since that time, it has remained one of the most-read travel accounts. Today, Bartram's trail is identified with markers, allowing modern adventurers to follow in Bartram's footsteps.



Section 2

The Road to Independence

Below: George III succeeded his father, George II, as king of Great Britain in 1760. He reigned until 1820. Britain fought three wars in America during his reign: the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812. During the latter part of his reign, he suffered from mental illness, and his son ruled in his place with the title Prince Regent.

As you read, look for

- events leading up to the break with Great Britain,
- Georgia's role in the growing tensions,
- the battles that started the Revolutionary War,
- the Declaration of Independence,
- terms: **Intolerable Acts, provincial congress, Council of Safety, Loyalist, Patriot, Declaration of Independence.**

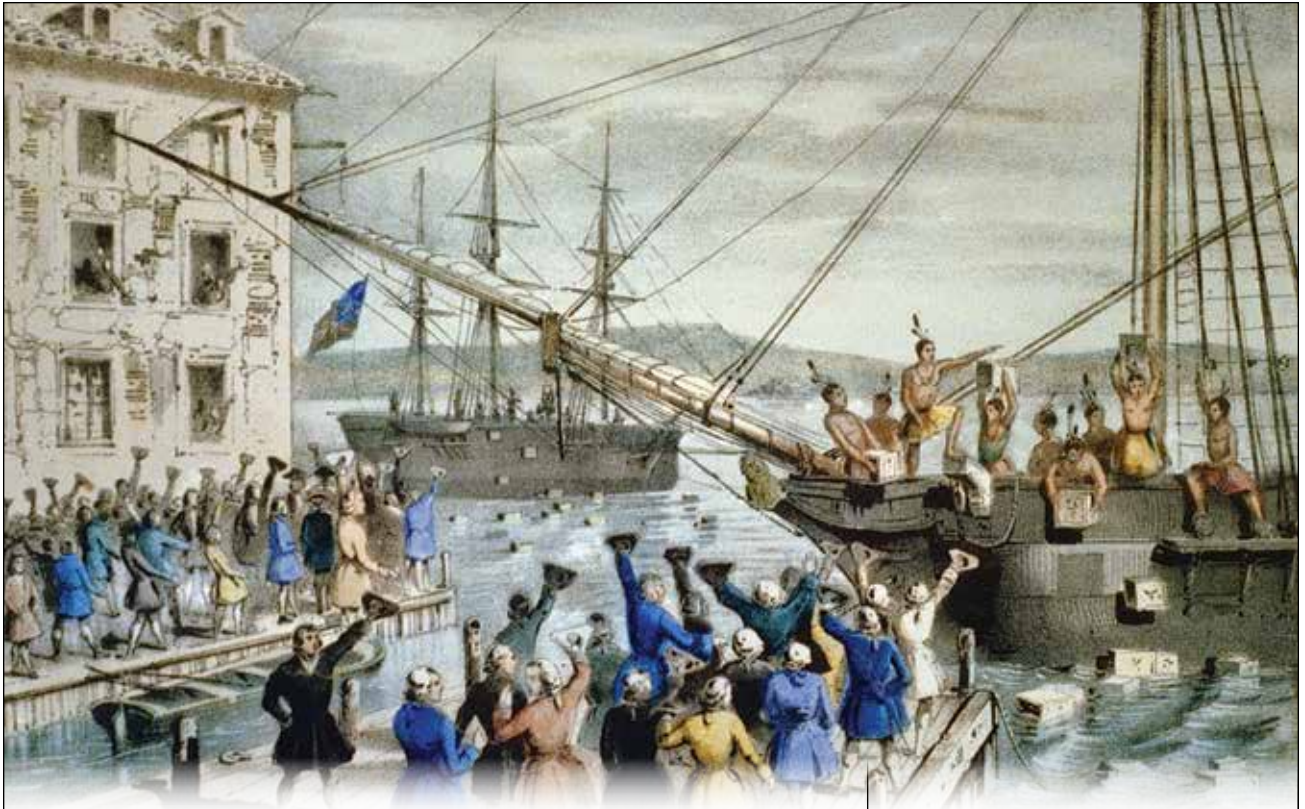


The early 1770s were calmer after the repeal of the Townshend Revenue Act. British leaders and many colonists hoped that they could work out better relations. Most colonists were not yet thinking of independence; they simply wanted the British to return to the policies of the period before the French and Indian War. The repeal of the Townshend Revenue Act seemed a step in that direction. Some colonists, such as Samuel Adams of Boston, tried to keep the spirit of resistance alive, but many settled back into their lives.

The British, however, set off another firestorm of protest with a new law in 1773. After that, events led, one after another, toward the final break. The colonies became more and more connected to each other in their opposition. As they did, the power of the royal governments in the colonies declined.

The Tea Act and the Boston Tea Party

In 1773, Great Britain passed the Tea Act. This law made Britain's East India Company the only company that could sell imported tea in the colonies. In other words, the company had a monopoly on tea. The company, which had been one of Great Britain's most successful, had lost a great deal of revenue because of the tea boycott during the protests



over the Townshend Act. Parliament was trying to keep the company from going bankrupt (collapsing). The tax the company had to pay on cargo leaving England was removed, so the company could lower the price of the tea. The company hoped the cheap tea would encourage the colonists to buy. But the tax still had to be paid on the tea when it came into the colonies. Many colonists saw this act as a trick to get them to pay the tax.

In some colonies, New York for example, the tea ships were sent back to Great Britain in protest. In South Carolina, the tea was confiscated (and later sold to help the revolutionary cause). The most famous protest was the Boston Tea Party. In that incident, colonists disguised as Indians boarded the tea ships in the harbor and dumped the tea into the water. No tea ships came to Georgia, so Georgia had no tea party.

The “Intolerable” Acts

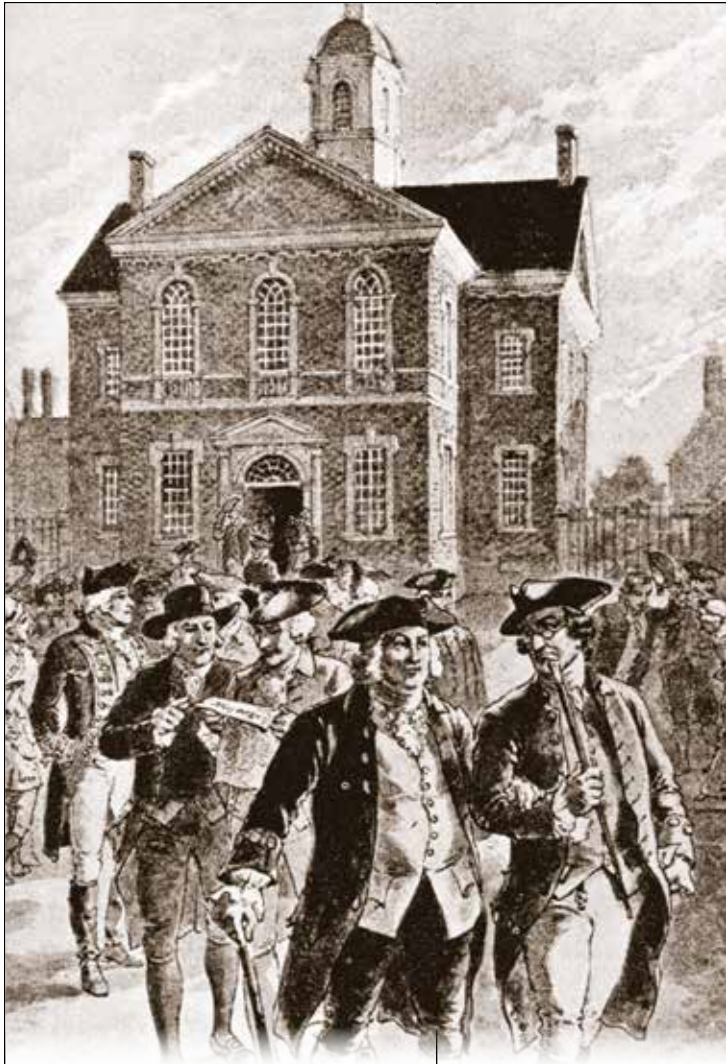
British King George III was outraged at what he and Parliament saw as a criminal action—destroying the East India Company’s property. He believed that the colonies had to be brought under control. As a result, Parliament enacted a series of laws to punish Boston and the Massachusetts colony. They were trying to make an example of what the government would do to colonies who participated in illegal behavior.

The Coercive Acts, as the British called them, closed Boston’s port to all ships going and coming until the colonists paid for the tea. One law limited Massachusetts’s government. Town meetings could not be held unless the royal governor approved. British officials accused of crimes were to be tried in Great Britain. Colonists had to quarter (house and feed) British soldiers

Above: The passage of the Tea Act in 1773 sparked protests throughout the colonies. The most celebrated response was the Boston Tea Party, when Patriots disguised as Indians boarded three ships in Boston harbor and threw the tea into the ocean.

Something Extra!

The Tea Act actually made the price of tea from the East India Company cheaper than the tea being smuggled in by American merchants.



Above: The First Continental Congress met at Carpenter's Hall in Philadelphia on September 5, 1774. Only Georgia was unrepresented at the meeting, which was called in response to the passage of the Intolerable Acts.



First Continental Congress

even in their own homes. These laws became known in the colonies as the **Intolerable Acts**.

Georgians were upset by the Intolerable Acts, even though they were aimed at the Massachusetts colony and not Georgia. In August 1774, representatives from all Georgia's parishes met in Savannah, although most came from the Midway area of St. John's Parish and from Christ Church Parish. Those at the meeting agreed to a series of resolutions (statements) explaining their disagreement with what Great Britain had done and stating what they wanted the government to do. They believed that Parliament was taking away their rights as British citizens. Like the other colonies, Georgia thought that only the colonial Commons House, where citizens were actually represented, should tax them.

Continental Congresses

In spite of Georgia's opposition to British policy, Georgia chose not to send any delegates to a meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. That meeting came to be called the First Continental Congress. Georgians did decide to have another meeting, called the **provincial congress**, in Savannah in January 1775 at the same time that the Commons House was scheduled to meet.

In September 1774, the First Continental Congress had called for the colonies to join together to boycott all British goods. This strategy, called a *nonimportation agreement*, had worked in the protest over the Townshend Act. To organize the boycott, the Continental Congress founded the Continental Association. In December 1774, the settlers in St. John's Parish agreed to accept the boycott, and early in January 1775 the people of Darien in St. Andrew's Parish did also. Other parts of the colony took no action.

Georgia's Commons House met in session on January 17, 1775. The next day, the provincial congress met with only five of the twelve parishes represented. (Representatives from St. John's Parish were not there because they were upset that most of the other parishes had not adopted the Continental Association boycott.) The provincial congress voted to send delegates to the Second Continental Congress that was scheduled to meet in Philadelphia in May 1775. The three men elected—Archibald Bulloch, Noble Wimberly Jones, and John Houstoun—were all from the Savannah area in Christ Church Parish. Since the provincial congress had no real power to do this, they hoped the Commons House, as the legally elected representatives of the people, would approve of what they had done.

Governor Wright was dismayed by what was happening. He thought that the official, royal government was losing control. He came personally to the Commons House and asked the delegates to keep the rule of law. Governor Wright genuinely loved Georgia and believed the British government had been good for the colony, helping it to become stronger and more prosperous. He was afraid that rebellion would bring Georgia “distress and ruin.” He said that passing measures opposed to the British government might have “terrible consequences.” When he thought the Commons House was going to take up the ideas of the provincial congress, he sent the delegates home before they could vote. As a result, Georgia was the only one of the thirteen colonies that had no delegates at the start of the Second Continental Congress.

Meanwhile, St. John’s Parish thought both the provincial congress and the Commons House were being too weak. Many of the colonists of St. John’s Parish were of Puritan New England heritage, so they thought more like the people in Massachusetts did. They even talked about seceding from Georgia and joining South Carolina. The residents of St. John’s Parish had their own meeting and elected Dr. Lyman Hall to represent them at the Second Continental Congress. Because he did not officially represent the colony of Georgia, however, he would not be able to vote. Born in Connecticut, Dr. Hall had moved to Georgia in 1757 and became a major leader during the Revolutionary period. When he left for the Second Continental Congress, he took rice and money to help the people of Massachusetts, who were struggling after the port of Boston had been closed by the Intolerable Acts.

Something Extra!

Dr. Lyman Hall had been a Congregationalist minister before becoming a physician.

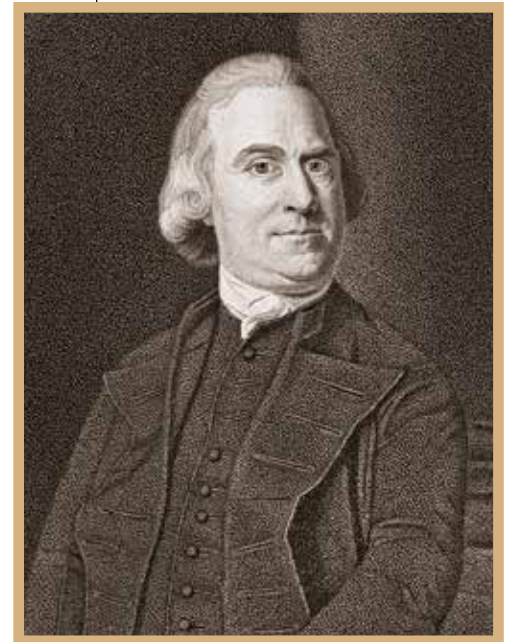


A Royal Government in Trouble

For the rest of the spring of 1775, events in Georgia led to a growing breakdown of the royal government, especially the power of Governor Wright. He found that his letters to Great Britain were being opened in Charlestown, South Carolina. Fake letters with his name forged on them were instead being sent to his superiors in London. When Wright asked the Commons House to meet in May, it ignored him. His ability to control the colony was lost.

On May 10, 1775, Georgians read in the *Georgia Gazette* that American colonists and British soldiers had fought each other in April in what came to be known as the Battles of Lexington and Concord. American writer and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson would later say the rebelling Massachusetts farmers had “fired the shot heard ’round the world.”

In Massachusetts, the situation had become increasingly tense. In the early spring of 1775, the British general stationed in Boston, Thomas Gage, had received orders to arrest the ringleaders of the Sons of Liberty, including Samuel Adams (who had led the Boston Tea Party) and John Hancock. Gage also knew that the Sons of Liberty were storing weapons and ammunition in the villages outside Boston. He determined to take these military supplies. But some colonists learned of Gage’s plan, and three men rode through the countryside at night warning the colonists that the British soldiers were coming. One of those riders became very



British General Thomas Gage (top) was given orders to round up the leaders of the Sons of Liberty, including Samuel Adams (above) and John Hancock.



Paul Revere

Something Extra!

The militia in Massachusetts were called “minutemen” because they could be ready to fight in a minute.

Above: The famous “midnight ride of Paul Revere” began on the night of April 18, 1775. Revere and two other riders were sent to warn the Patriots that the British Army was on its way to Lexington, intent on seizing the Patriots’ store of weapons. The resulting confrontation was the first battle of the Revolutionary War. **Right:** News of the battles of Lexington and Concord inspired the Georgia Sons of Liberty to raid the royal magazine and steal the gunpowder stored there.

famous—silversmith Paul Revere. When the king’s soldiers marched to the village of Lexington on April 19, they were met by armed Americans called “minutemen.” Someone fired, and a skirmish occurred that left Americans dead and wounded. Both sides claimed the other had fired that first shot. The British soldiers marched on toward Concord, where Americans fired on them from the Old North Bridge. As the soldiers marched back toward Boston, the minutemen fired at them all along the way, killing and wounding many British troops.

This news electrified the Sons of Liberty in Georgia. Noble Wimberly Jones called for a meeting at his house the next night. After the meeting, he,

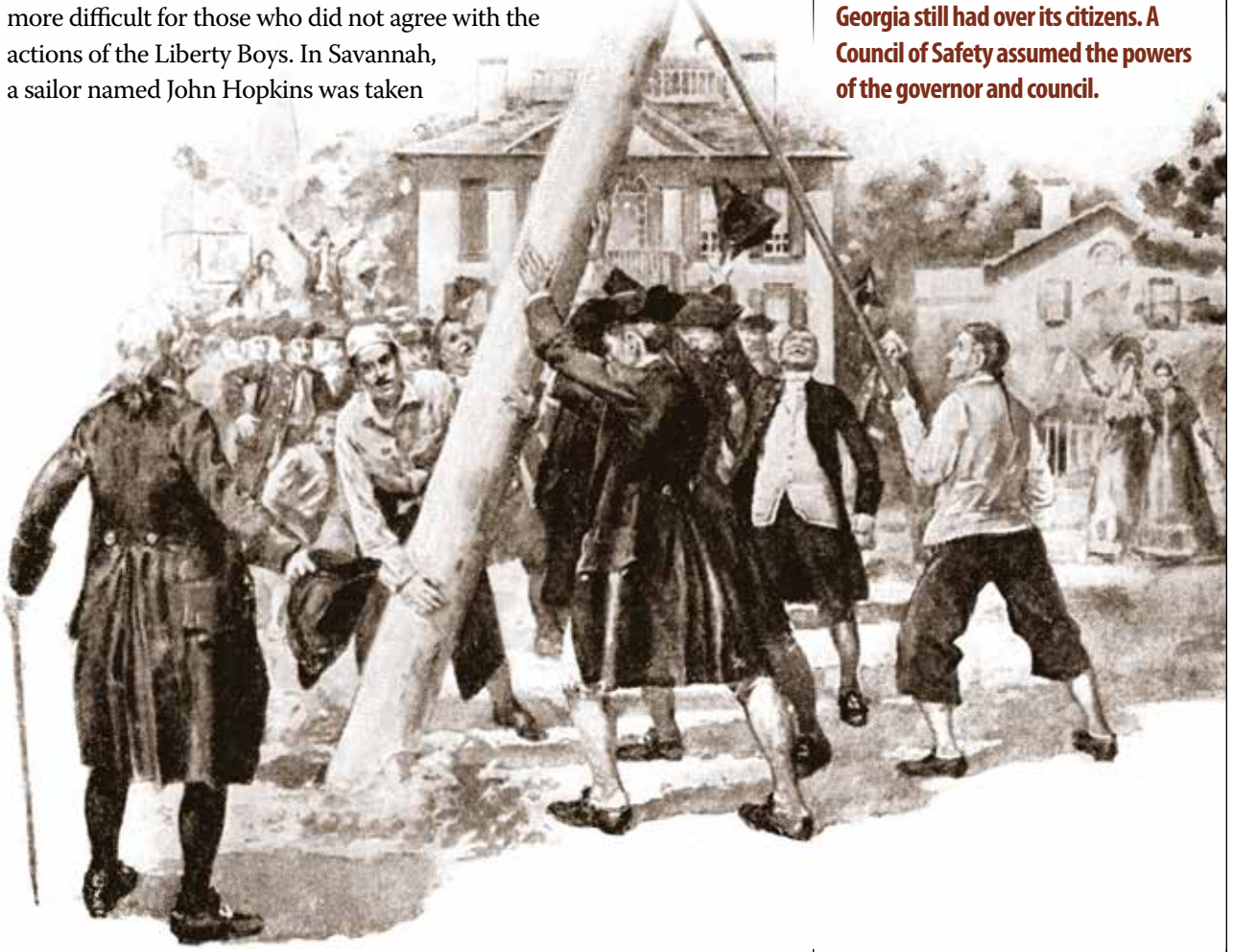


Joseph Habersham, Edward Telfair, Joseph Clay, John Milledge, Mordecai Sheftall, and others broke into the royal magazine (the storage house for gunpowder) and stole about six hundred pounds of gunpowder. It would later be used as ammunition in the Revolution. Although South Carolinians had already raided their own magazine, this was a bold action for the Georgia Sons of Liberty.

Other acts against the king and the royal government followed. On June 2, 1775, the cannons on the Savannah River were rolled down the bluff in an attempt to disable them. The Sons of Liberty did not want them to be fired in a salute to the king's birthday on June 4. Governor Wright had them brought back up and fired the ones that would still operate. On June 5, a large mob of Savannahians marched to the governor's house and put up a "liberty" pole with a flag on top. The governor was powerless to stop this demonstration and other acts of defiance.

With the royal government not functioning well, law and order needed to be maintained. So the rebels set up local committees for that purpose and called for a new provincial congress to meet on July 4. An overall **Council of Safety** was set up to oversee the local committees and basically take on the powers of the governor and his council. Among other tasks, the local committees of safety, as they were called, tried to enforce the boycott of British goods, sometimes in violent ways. Life became more difficult for those who did not agree with the actions of the Liberty Boys. In Savannah, a sailor named John Hopkins was taken

Below: Acts of protest and defiance continued in Georgia following the battles in Massachusetts. When a large mob erected a "liberty" pole in front of the mansion of Governor Wright on June 5, 1775, it demonstrated how little control the royal government of Georgia still had over its citizens. A Council of Safety assumed the powers of the governor and council.





Above: The second provincial congress, meeting at Tondee's Tavern, made sure that Georgia would be represented at the Second Continental Congress, electing five delegates.

from his home, tarred, feathered, and paraded through the streets. In Augusta, a recent British settler named Thomas Brown was treated even more severely. When he refused to swear an oath to the boycott, he was stabbed, hit over the head, tarred, feathered, and burned on the soles of his feet. Incredibly, he survived all of this. He became an ardent supporter of the king.

The second provincial congress met on July 4, 1775, at Tondee's Tavern in Savannah. Some of the men elected as delegates were not from wealthy or well-born families. Governor Wright was surprised at the idea of artisans and other ordinary men being involved in governing. During the meeting, the provincial congress passed many resolutions on the rights of the colonists and asked the king to remove his soldiers from the colonies.

They also elected five men to the Second Continental Congress being held in Philadelphia: the Reverend John Zubly, Archibald Bulloch, Noble Wimberly Jones, Lyman Hall, and John Houstoun. Georgia would now be participating fully with the twelve other colonies.

On July 10, 1775, the British ship *Phillipa* sailed into the Savannah River. Joseph Habersham, son of merchant and council member James Habersham, had outfitted a ship he named the *Liberty*. Sailing out to the British ship in his ship, he forced the British captain to Cockspur, an island in the Savannah River. There Habersham and the Sons of Liberty unloaded the ship's cargo of gunpowder and bullets. Governor Wright could do nothing to protect the *Phillipa*. Some of this powder was later given to the Indians to try to keep them friendly to the colonists.

Rebellion and Independence

By late 1775, Georgia was heading toward full rebellion. Georgia citizens, however, were not united in their stand. In the backcountry of St. Paul's Parish, many citizens at first remained loyal to the British government. They had suffered raids by Indians who were upset that settlers were moving into their lands. Many of the settlers had fled their new homes; others had fortified their homes or built separate forts that they could flee to in case of Indian attack. These settlers had thought they needed the protection of the British. When the king sent no soldiers in spite of Governor Wright's repeated requests, they became upset by the government's unwillingness to protect them. Some began to change their loyalty.

Some Georgians, including some who had disapproved of the British policies, did not believe in outright defiance of the government and its

laws. One such person was Presbyterian minister John J. Zubly. The Reverend Zubly had attended meetings protesting British actions and had even been chosen as one of the delegates to the Second Continental Congress. But full defiance to the point of independence went too far for Zubly and others. Members of the Governor's Council felt the same way. These citizens remained loyal to Great Britain and King George, so they were called **Loyalists**; sometimes they were called *Tories*, the name of the political party in Great Britain that supported the king and his policies. The Loyalists included many of the government officials, the Anglican ministers, the Indian traders, and some of the planters and farmers who thought that they were doing well under British rule. Some of the wealthy and many of the older citizens who had lived through the positive changes that had happened since the trustee period also remained loyal to Great Britain.

Those who defied the government called themselves **Patriots**. They believed that the changes in the British policies since the French and Indian War were taking away rights that had been guaranteed them as British citizens. These people were also known as *Whigs*, the name of the political party in Great Britain that sometimes opposed the king and his policies. The Patriots included many of the Scots in St. Andrew's Parish, the Congregationalists of St. John's Parish, many of the craftsmen and artisans in Savannah, many small farmers, and some planters. By the end of 1775, enough Georgians had become Patriots that the colony joined the other twelve colonies, which had been more defiant for a longer time.

Why had Georgia been slower to active rebellion than its sister colonies? For one thing, Georgia was younger. Other young mainland British colonies, such as East and West Florida, did not join the rebellion. Many of Georgia's older citizens had come directly from Great Britain and still had close ties to the mother country. In most other colonies, a majority of the citizens had been born in the colonies, so their direct ties to the mother country were further in the past. This had the unfortunate effect in Georgia of fathers supporting the British as Loyalists and sons becoming Patriots. Noble Jones and Noble Wimberly Jones and James Habersham and his three sons—James Jr., John, and Joseph—are examples.

A second reason that had initially made many colonists reluctant to defy the mother country was that Georgia had so many exposed frontiers that could be attacked by Indians. The British government had maintained mostly friendly relations with the Indians through regulation of the Indian trade and through a policy of providing gifts or presents to the Indians on a regular basis. In case those relationships became less friendly, as they did after the Indians reluctantly gave up the new lands in 1773, the colonists thought that Great Britain would send soldiers for their defense. Only when they did not get that protection did many frontier settlers cast their lot with the rebels.

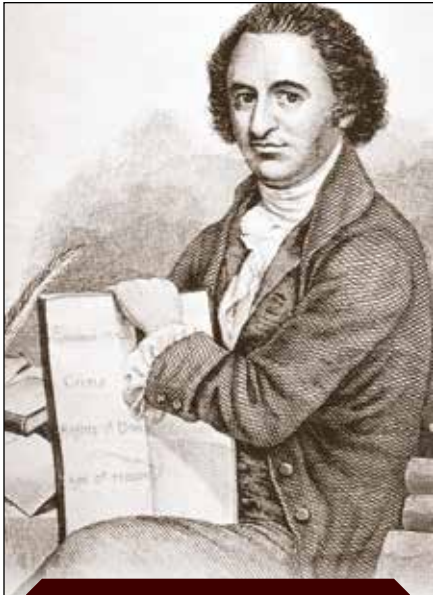
Finally, most Georgians genuinely liked their royal governor, James Wright. His capable leadership had helped the colony grow in population



Above: The Olde Pink House on Reynolds Square is one of the most familiar sights in Savannah. It was built in 1771 by James Habersham, Jr., the eldest of three sons of James Habersham, one of the most prominent citizens of the colony. As was true in some other Georgia families, the younger Habershams were Patriots while their father was still loyal when he died in August 1775.



James Wright - Today in Georgia History



Something Extra!

Thomas Paine is credited with giving us the name "The United States of America."

Right: Three members of the drafting committee, left to right, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson, work on the Declaration of Independence. Adams and Jefferson went on to become, respectively, the second and third presidents of the United States, and political adversaries. They died on the same day, July 4, 1826, 50 years to the day after the declaration was adopted.

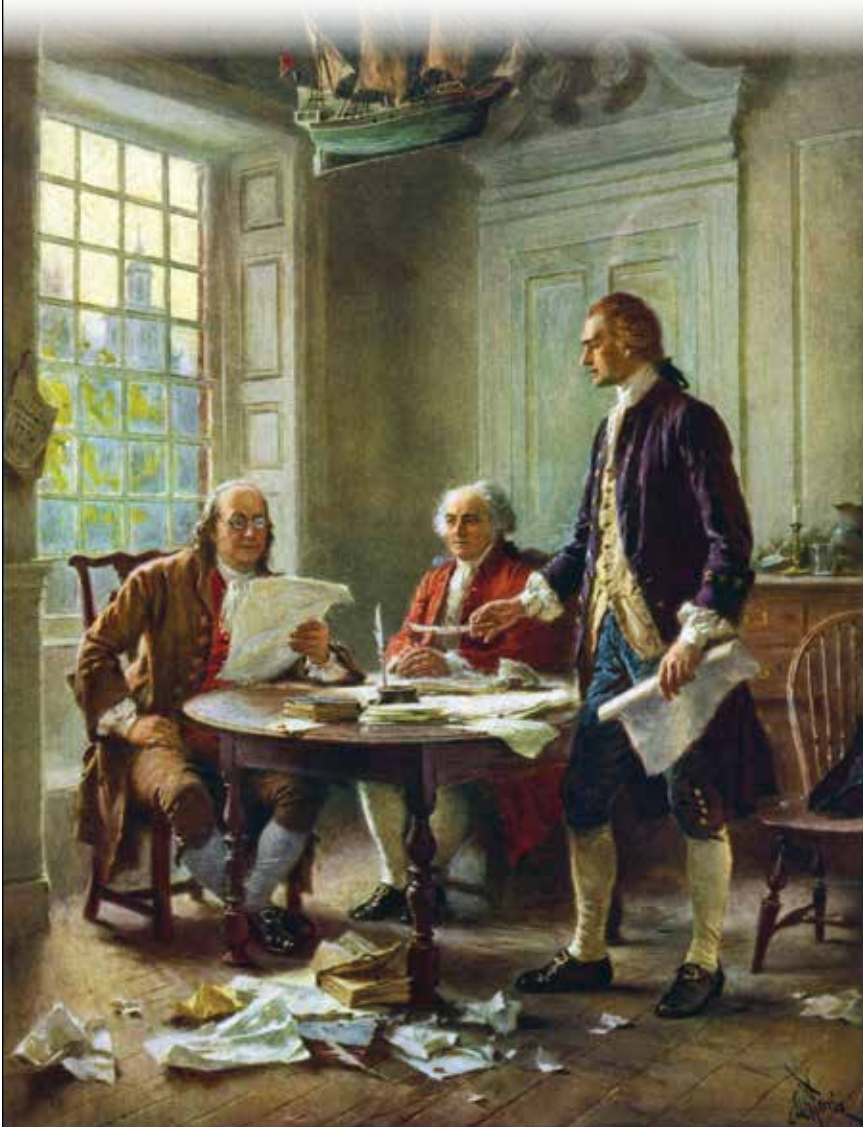


Declaration of Independence

and had brought more stability and more prosperity. In fact, James Wright may have been too good a governor. If Georgia had not prospered under his care, the colony might not have been strong enough to revolt. By the end of 1775, Wright knew that his power was waning. He pleaded desperately with the British to send troops to Georgia, believing that Georgia was still young enough and weak enough that the resistance could be subdued. What he did not know was that, within three months, he and his family would be forced to sail away from their Georgia home. He had helped his colony mature enough to join its older sister colonies and leave its mother.

The Declaration of Independence

Following the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. One of its early actions was to approve a Continental Army of 20,000 men, with George Washington as its commander. The Congress sent a declaration to King George III, explaining why the colonists had "taken up arms." Following that, they drew up a petition asking the king to reconsider his policies, so peace could be made. This was known as the



“Olive Branch” Petition, because an olive branch has long been a symbol of making peace. But events made peace less likely. The king not only rejected the olive branch, but he also sent another 20,000 troops to the colonies to end what he considered a rebellion. He declared all who participated in activities against the government to be traitors.

In January 1776, a Patriot named Thomas Paine published a pamphlet called *Common Sense*, arguing for a path of independence. He said that an independent America “could begin the world over again.” That was the debate that kept the Continental Congress busy during that spring of 1776. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia introduced a

resolution for independence. The Congress appointed a committee, including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, and Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, to write a declaration that would explain to the world, and to their fellow colonists, why they were justified in separating from their mother country.

Many of the words had appeared in other declarations and writings in the colonies, but this document was a good summary of the delegates’ philosophy and thinking. In the declaration, the colonists were no longer talking about just their rights as British citizens, but about natural rights that came from “the Creator,” not the king. On July 2, the Continental Congress voted for independence. After two more days of revising the document, the **Declaration of Independence** went to the printer on July 4, 1776. The colonies considered themselves free and independent states united in a common cause. They would have to fight a war to make it so.

Three Georgians were there to sign the document: Dr. Lyman Hall, George Walton, and Button Gwinnett. With the other signers, they pledged, their “lives . . . fortunes . . . and sacred honor.”



Above: The first official public reading of the Declaration of Independence was given in front of Liberty Hall in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776.



Causes of the American Revolution

Reviewing the Section

1. Define: Loyalist, Patriot.
2. Why did Parliament enact the Intolerable Acts? How did they affect Georgia?
3. Why was Georgia at first reluctant to join the other colonies in rebellion?

Discovering Georgia's Past

Georgia's Signers



Georgia Delegates
Sign the Declaration of
Independence - Today in
Georgia History

Three men signed the Declaration of Independence as Georgia's representatives to the Second Continental Congress: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, and George Walton. None of these men were native Georgians. Gwinnett was born in England and arrived in Georgia in 1765 when he was thirty years old. He failed in a career as a merchant and as a planter, but his political career fared better. Hall was born in Connecticut, graduated from Yale, and lived in South Carolina before settling in Midway, Georgia, in 1760 at the age of thirty-six to practice medicine. Born in Virginia, Walton moved to Savannah in 1769 when he was about twenty to become a practicing attorney. All three men became active in the Revolutionary movement. Walton was initially part of the Patriot faction in Christ Church Parish, while Gwinnett and Hall were part of a more radical faction.

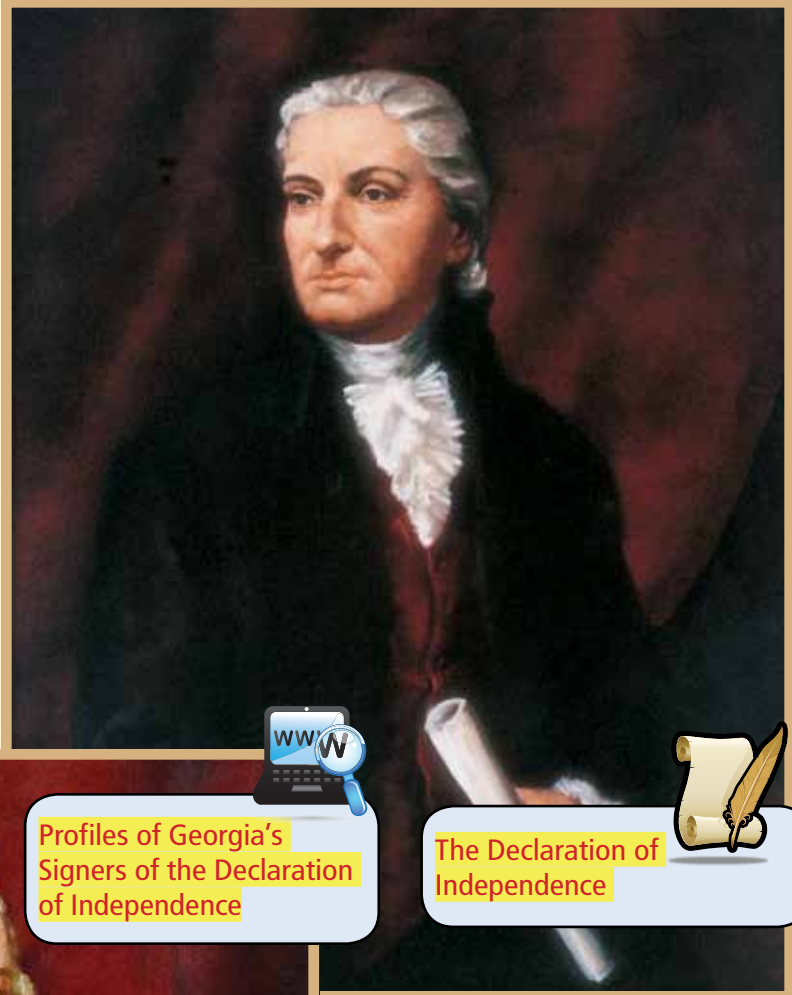


The three also quickly became active in Georgia politics. Gwinnett began his service in the Commons House of Assembly in 1769. When the war began, he was chosen by the Georgia provincial congress as commander of the Georgia Continental Battalion. Conservative Patriots opposed his selection, and he stepped aside to accept an appointment to the Second Continental Congress in

Above: Button Gwinnett was born in England in 1735, coming to Georgia in 1765. He was elected to the Commons House of Assembly in 1769. Siding with those in favor of independence, he was appointed to serve as a delegate to the Continental Congress in 1776, where he signed the Declaration of Independence in August. Gwinnett died in 1777, following a duel with his political rival, Lachlan McIntosh.

Philadelphia. Hall was first chosen to go to the Continental Congress by St. John's Parish. He could not vote, however, since he did not represent the entire colony. When Georgia did choose representatives to the Second Continental Congress, Hall was one of the men chosen. Walton was first elected to the provincial congress; in 1775, he became president of the Georgia Council of Safety. Then, in 1776, he too became a member of the Second Continental Congress. All three were present in Philadelphia to vote for and sign the Declaration of Independence.

Unfortunately, Button Gwinnett died in 1777, following a duel with



Profiles of Georgia's Signers of the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence



Above: Lyman Hall was the first person to represent Georgia at the Continental Congress, where he voted in favor of independence. He became governor of Georgia in 1783. **Left:** George Walton moved to Georgia from Virginia in 1769, and became one of the leading lawyers of the colony. He served the state in several important positions after the war.

Lachlan McIntosh. Hall served as Georgia governor in 1783 and helped found the University of Georgia. Walton had a successful career after the war as a governor, chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, and United States senator. Gwinnett, Hall, and Walton counties are named in honor of these famous Georgians.

Chapter Review



Self-check Quiz

Chapter Summary

Section 1 British Policies at the War's End

- After the French and Indian War, Parliament enacted a “new” colonial policy in part to help pay for the costs of the war.
- The Navigation Acts regulated the products the colonies could sell and how those products could be shipped.
- Smuggling developed as a way to avoid paying British taxes.
- The Proclamation of 1763 forbade settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Georgia was not directly affected, although it benefited from settlers moving to the colony to claim land.
- The Sugar Act of 1764 placed a tax on molasses.
- The Stamp Act of 1765 required that stamps be placed on all printed materials and documents. Georgia was the only colony that actually sold the stamps.
- The Townshend Revenue Act placed taxes on many goods coming into the colony. In 1770, all the taxes except the one on tea were repealed.

Section 2 The Road to Independence

- The 1773 Tea Act gave Britain's East India Company a monopoly on the sale of tea in the colonies. One famous protest against the law was the Boston Tea Party.
- Parliament passed the Coercive or Intolerable Acts to punish the Massachusetts colony for the Boston Tea Party.

- Royal Governor Wright often dissolved the Commons House of Assembly when it appeared to take actions that were against the British government.
- The first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts.
- A Council of Safety was established to oversee the local committees of safety.
- The provincial congress named Reverend John Zubly, Archibald Bulloch, Noble Wimberly Jones, Lyman Hall, and John Houstoun as Georgia's representatives to the Second Continental Congress.
- Those who favored independence from Great Britain were known as Patriots or Whigs. Those who wished to remain British subjects were known as Loyalists or Tories.
- Georgia was slow to join the other colonies in rebelling against the mother country.
- The Second Continental Congress voted to separate the colonies from Great Britain. It issued the Declaration of Independence in July 1776. The three Georgians who signed the document were Dr. Lyman Hall, George Walton, and Button Gwinnett.



Internet Activity



Understanding the Facts

1. Name three effects of the French and Indian War.
2. Describe the Stamp Act and how it was implemented in Georgia.

3. Describe the First Continental Congress and what action it agreed to take.
4. List the three Georgians who signed the Declaration of Independence.



Developing Critical Thinking

Georgians who lived during this era had a very difficult choice to make. Should they support their king or support the other colonies? Develop a chart that lists the arguments for and against joining the Patriots or remaining a Loyalist.



Writing Across the Curriculum

1. Imagine you are a leader of the Sons of Liberty in Georgia. Write a persuasive letter to a friend or relative that convinces that person to join the group. Remember, what you are asking your friend or relative to do is an act of disloyalty to the king.
2. Imagine you are a news reporter and have just witnessed the Declaration of Independence being read to the king of England. Write a summary of what you saw and how the king responded.



Extending Reading Skills

Read the second paragraph after the heading “Rebellion and Independence” on pages 262-263. Then, answer the following questions.

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph?
2. What sentence in the paragraph states the main idea?
3. Which sentences provide supporting details?
4. What are some of the details?



Exploring Technology

Use your favorite search engine to find a map showing Revolutionary War battlefields. Look for patterns in the locations of the battles, and determine why the fighting appeared concentrated in certain areas and nonexistent in others.



Practicing Your Skills

Select key events leading to the Declaration of Independence and put them on a timeline of your own design.

Word Jumble -
PDF version



Word Jumble -
FLASH version



Above: This Boston silversmith is more famous for his “midnight ride.” Who is he?